

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

ROBERT ALVAREZ ET AL.

Serial No. 08/964518 (TI-19177)

Filed November 5, 1997

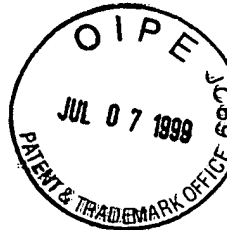
For: STABILIZER/SPACER FOR SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE

Art Unit 2811

Examiner A. Williams

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:



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PETITION TO ENTER AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116

Applicants, through their attorney, hereby petition the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to enter the amendment filed under 37 C.F.R. 1.116 on the ground that the amendment does not raise new issue and/or require further consideration or search and that the amendment places the application in better form for appeal. No charge is believed to be required since the error is that of the Patent and Trademark Office. However, in the event a fee be required, please charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 20-0668.

The facts are that an amendment was filed after final rejection which was refused entry for a plethora of reasons, the Examiner noting that the basis of the refusal was the added claim language to claim 10 which the Examiner alleges would require further

consideration and/or search. A review of claim 10 both prior to and subsequent to the final rejection will immediately reveal that the alleged reasons for refusal to enter the amendment are in error.

Claim 10 as presented below with underlined material deleted and bracketed material included represents claim 10 prior to final rejection, whereas this claim with underlined material included and bracketed material deleted represents claim 10 with requested amendments after final rejection.

"10. A method for stabilizing the leads of a lead frame and providing a semiconductor die mount pad, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a leadframe having a central semiconductor die-receiving region and a plurality of leadframe leads extending outwardly from said central die-receiving region;

(b) providing a stabilizer, said stabilizer having a die pad integral therewith and disposed beneath said central semiconductor die-receiving region; and

(c) adhering [a] said stabilizer along part of the length and on each side of said leadframe leads to improve leadframe planarity; and

forming a die pad integral with said stabilizer disposed beneath said central semiconductor die-receiving region].

The preamble and paragraph (a) contain no material changes. In step (b), the step of providing a stabilizer is not an addition to the claim since paragraph (c) already claimed a stabilizer. Accordingly, the change merely placed the claim in better form for appeal. The requirement in step (b) that the stabilizer have a die pad integral therewith and disposed beneath the central semiconductor die-receiving region is nothing more than the material canceled from the claim, namely "forming a die pad integral with said stabilizer disposed beneath said central semiconductor die-receiving region". It follows that the amendments are merely cosmetic and in no way changed the breadth of claim 10 or its meaning. It follows that the refusal to enter the amendment after final rejection is based upon a erroneous premise.

In view of the above analysis, it is requested that the amendment after final rejection be entered for purposes of appeal.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay M. Cantor". The signature is stylized, with a large "J" and "C".

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